

Message Text

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P R 161326Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202872

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, PFOR, CM

SUBJECT: WATTS BASE STATION

REF: A) YAOUNDE 2909 (NOTAL), B) YAOUNDE 2843

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES REASONS FOR AMBASSADOR'S RELUCTANCE TO APPROACH GURC ON WATTS WHILE REQUEST IS STILL BEFORE IVORY COAST. REQUEST TO GOIC ORIGINALLY MADE APRIL 8 AND MATTER HAS BEEN RAISED WITH GOIC ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SINCE THEN. IN A FAREWELL CALL ON FONMIN JULY 30, AMBASSADOR AGAIN REFERRED TO U.S. REQUEST AND WAS TOLD THAT BECAUSE OF INTERMINISTERIAL DIFFERENCES, MATTER HAD BEEN REFERRED TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. IN VIEW OF PROTRACTED DELAYS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THUS FAR, WE ARE NOT WILLING TO WAIT UNTIL GOIC FINALLY MAKES UP ITS MIND.

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2. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE PROCEED WITH WATTS DEMARCHE AS

PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED. FYI: FOR TECHNICAL REASONS DEPT. PREFERS DOUALA TO ABIDJAN SITE. IF POSITIVE RESPONSE IS RECEIVED WHILE GOIC TALKS STILL UNDERWAY, WE WILL IMMEDIATELY ACCEPT CAMEROONIAN OFFER AND DISCONTINUE EFFORT IN IVORY COAST. ON OTHER HAND, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FORECLOSE ABIDJAN POSSIBILITY IN ADVANCE; AND IF GOIC IS FIRST TO SAY YES,

EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT DEPT WILL BE OBLIGED TO ACCEPT IN VIEW OF PRESSING URGENCY TO PROCEED. REQUEST TO GURC SHOULD REFLECT DEPT'S SERIOUS AND URGENT HOPE FOR POSITIVE RESPONSE; WE LEAVE IT TO CHARGE'S DIPLOMATIC SKILLS TO PRESENT IT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ALLOW FOR GRACEFUL WITHDRAWAL, AFTERWARDS, IF NECESSARY.

3. PARA 4 OF REF (A) TOUCHES ON FUZZY AREA. AS POST AWARE, SOME TRAFFIC (USUALLY ROUTINE) THAT GOES THROUGH STATE DEPT COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS EITHER ORIGINATES FROM OR IS RECEIVED BY OTHER AGENCIES. DEPT SUGGESTS YOU AVOID RAISING THIS ISSUE YOURSELF; BUT IF IT IS RAISED BY GURC, YOU MAY SAY THAT WATTS IS STRICTLY A STATE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, STAFFED EXCLUSIVELY BY STATE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, AND INTENDED FOR NORMAL DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS.

4. FOR EDINBURGH: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PASSING THIS CABLE TO AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON HERBERT SPIRO FOR HIS INFO. HE ARRIVING EDINBURGH AUG. 18 (REF B) TO PARTICIPATE IN CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, AND CAN BE REACHED IN CARE OF R. MACDONALD, TEL. 031-556-2191. KISSINGER

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